



*The*  
**Auckland  
Climber**

[www.aucklandclimber.org.nz](http://www.aucklandclimber.org.nz)

**OCTOBER 2009**

*meeting next month*

**North Face  
of the Eiger**  
*with Alex Palman*

*trip report*

**Gales on Girdlestone**

PICTURE CREDIT: MAGNUS FLOCK

**Welcome** to the October edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club generally meets on the first Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera Rd, Newmarket at 7.15 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.

---

### **Climber Content**

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for Sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 15th of the

month preceding. Contact Ant Stead by emailing: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Change of Address**

For any change of address, or to request to receive your newsletter by email (better for us and the environment!) contact: subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz  
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

### ***This month's meeting:***

---

This month's meeting is on Monday, October 5. This time we've got two great guys talking about these adventures Toby Johnson and Pete Cammell.

Toby climbed Khan Tengri, 1 of the 5 "snow leopard peaks", in 2000, the last 1000m solo, with an unplanned bivvy at 6850m. Toby's adventure was a true epic and anyone from newbies to old hands will be recognise many of the themes: judgement calls, mistakes and successes, and hard work. Look out for some great meetings this year!



Toby will be followed by NZAC President Elect, Pete Cammell on climbing from an Auckland base camp. Pete has climbed extensively in New Zealand, with the Mt Cook region becoming a firm favourite early in his climbing career. He's also climbed in the European Alps, the Himalayas, Africa and the US, including Yosemite's Half Dome. Along the way he's bagged a number of first ascents. Currently he's climbing voraciously in New Zealand and has climbed all but one of Hugh Logan's 'Classic Peaks'.



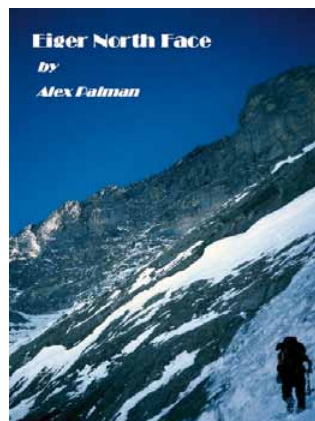
### ***Next month's meeting:***

---

**Monday November 2, 7.15pm, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera.**

## ***Eiger North Face*** – Alex Palman

Alex palman presents a slideshow of his winter ascent of this foreboding wall, via the infamous Heckmair–Harrer route.



# National News

## *The Aspiring Region Guidebook Specials*

With the approaching release of the new edition Mt Aspiring guidebook at the end of 2009, we are running the following special offers on the current edition, while stock lasts.

These can be purchased online, or by contacting Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz in the National Office (*Note: postage quoted below is for NZ only, overseas buyers please contact the office for a quote*)

1. 2-4-1 Two Aspiring Region guides for the price of one = \$25 members (\$35 non-members) + \$4.00 p&p
2. Purchase the Aoraki/Mt Cook guide and get the Aspiring guide thrown in for only \$10.00 extra = \$40 members (\$55 non-members) + \$4 p&p
3. Purchase the Darran Mountains guide and get the Aspiring guide thrown in for only \$10.00 extra = \$40 members (\$55 non-members) + \$4 p&p

## *Climbing Kit for sale.*

### 1. *La Sportiva ice climbing/alpine boots*

Euro size 45.5, lightweight, leather & kevlar composite construction, hardly used, don't fit my feet! Very good condition. \$300

### 2. *Waterproof hat, Lowe Alpine*

Fleece lined, with peak, size XL, unused. \$25

### 3. *Gaiters, Lowe Alpine*

Hardly used, \$25

Please email me on phil.key@adelaideaqu.com for photos or information.

# Auckland News

## *Rob Casserley coming to NZ*

He'll be giving a public presentation on his endeavours. Rob Casserley has summited Everest five times (in the process equalling a record in 2007 of two summits in one season, never previously achieved by a western climber), Cho Oyu (6th highest mountain in the world) twice and Denali (highest peak in North America) twice, amongst many others. His time in the mountains has lead him in to scientific research looking at the genetic basis for acclimatisation and additionally, he helped film and co-present for BBC, the documentary series "Everest ER". Rob is currently in Mansalu (8th highest mountain on the world), coming to New Zealand with Worldwise Online and then off for approximately two months at sea on the Atlantic with a rowing mate. He'll attempt Everest for a 6th time (hopefully) May 2010.

A spectacular opportunity to listen to the amazing experiences of an extraordinary man!



**WHEN** - 18.00-19.30 Friday 16th October

**WHERE** - TBC

**COST** - \$20 (Book for 10 and only pay for 9)

**BOOK** - Clare at online@worldwise.co.nz or phone 09 520 5830

**All profits will be donated to an appropriate alpine cause as guided by the New Zealand Alpine Club**

## **Atuanui Restoration Project**

Atuanui Restoration Project needs help with some baiting this month and next, at Atuanui-Mt Auckland.

We urgently need more volunteers to help put Ratabate paste poison into our baitstation network. Most include some steep and challenging bush country, but all are a good off-track ramble through some of Atuanui-Mt Auckland's best bush. Medium fitness required.

People do one or two bait-lines per day and may take up to 3-4 hours. We will be having baiting days on the weekend of Sept 26/27, Saturday October 3rd only, and the weekends of 10/11th, 23/24, or 30/31. We usually start at 9am from the Red Barn off the Kaipara Hills Rd entry. If people want to come during the week, on a Monday or Wednesday in October, we can accommodate that too.

If you can help us, please email me at [suzi@dialogue.co.nz](mailto:suzi@dialogue.co.nz) or phone Suzi on 021-2712527.

(For those who don't know - Atuanui-Mt Auckland is 300m high, and is 22km north of Kaukapakapa on SH16 just past Glorit, and we use the Kaipara Hills Rd entrance, about 3km up from SH16.)

---

## **Aspiring photos needed**

I'm an artist and I have to make a sculpture of a mountain (not what I usually do but hey, these things happen!). I would like to base it on Mount Aspiring, being very singular and with a great looking peak. What I'd love is for any members to send me some shots of the different faces of the mountain if possible, so I can build up the sculpture in 3D. The images don't have to be large files, just clear enough to see features, taken in fairly well lit conditions and with as much of the mountain as possible in the shot (so probably approach photos rather than any particular pitch on a face).

If you're happy to do this please email below, and I am also happy to discuss copyright issues further.

The sculpture will be on view in the Auckland City Gallery later in the year- can give details closer to the time.

**Ruth Watson** - [r.watson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.watson@auckland.ac.nz)



PHOTO CREDIT: [www.flickr.com/people/sammij/](http://www.flickr.com/people/sammij/)

---

## **2009 committee & contacts**

### **Chairperson & Chief Instructor** – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 2386230

email: [chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz](mailto:chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz)

### **Vice-Chair & Membership** – Christa Dickson

email: [vicechairperson@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:vicechairperson@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Treasurer** – Sean Wright

email: [treasurer@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Secretary** – Gerald Lanning

email: [secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Newsletter Editor** – Anthony Stead

email: [newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Events** – Suzanne Stickney

Phone: 021 412 001

email: [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com)

### **Trips** – Magnus Hammarsal

Phone: 021 314 422

email: [trips@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:trips@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Hut Manager & Gear Organiser** – Brad White

Phone: 021 918642

email: [hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Meetings** – Peter Cammell

Phone: 0274 905218

email: [meetings@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:meetings@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Hire Gear** – Cormac Flynn

email: [gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Website** – Deryn Williams

email: [webmaster@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office: (03) 377 7595

During office hours

email: [admin@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:admin@alpineclub.org.nz)

# Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with who you want. You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide: it's about car-pooling, collating emergency details and forwarding information to the trip participants. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Magnus (hammarsal@hotmail.com). Also email us to obtain updates to this list. Trips marked with "organiser tba" means that we don't have a trips organised allocated and that trip can't go ahead until we find a volunteer to do so.... All suggestions for trips welcome!

*Alpine climbing is dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend.*

## **Grading Levels:**

**Beginner** means someone who is at least a current SnowCraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course to that date.

**Intermediate** would be proficient in all the basic alpine skills taught on the course.

**Advanced** would have already gained further alpine experience and is comfortable on alpine grade 2+ climbs.




You may need to assure the organiser that you have the appropriate skill level before they let you attend. The best way to do this is to attend the monthly Monday night meeting, introduce yourself to the organiser and tell them what skills and experience you have. This is not just for your safety but for the safety of others on the trip.

## October

### **Mt Ruapehu**

**Oct 10-11**

A chance for new snowcrafters to get out there and put their newly learnt skills to the test together with other club members. Climb to the top, climb on the Pinnacles or climb whatever takes your fancy.

 Magnus Hammarsal  hammarsal@hotmail.com  021 314 422

### **Mt Taranaki**

**Oct 24-26**

Staying at Taranaki Alpine Club's Tahurangi Lodge. Chance for summiting, ice climbing etc. dependent on the size and ability of the group. Great chance for snowcraft graduates to put new skills to the test.

**Level** Beginner/Intermediate

 Anthony Stead  antstead@gmail.com

## November

### **Massey University Hut, Turoa**

**Nov 7-8**

Tahurangi and/or Girdlestone – maybe even traverse the two. Tahurangi would be good for ex snowcrafters or beginners and the traverse for intermediate level.

**Level** Beginner/Intermediate



 Shane Inder  S.Inder@massey.ac.nz

### **Introduction to rock climbing and Leading on Bolts**

**Nov 21-22**

This is ideal for climbers who:

- Have climbed indoors before and want to know how to extend their skills to the outdoor environment safely
- Want to learn how to set up a top rope in the outdoors.
- Are seeking to learn how to lead climbs on bolts. Instructor: Roger Mayhill



 Anthony Stead  rockinstruction@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Introduction to climbing and leading on natural protection**

**Nov 28-29**

This is ideal for climbers who:

- This course is ideal climbers who have had experience climbing outdoors and want to get more efficient at climbing.
- Focused on getting you to climb 2 grades harder. Instructor: Roger Mayhill

 Anthony Stead  rockinstruction@aucklandclimber.org.nz

# Gales on Girdlestone

By Gerald Lanning - 5/6 September 2009

Gale force south-easterlies around the tops was the forecast, but it was a calm, crisp moonlit night when we arrived at the Mangawhero campground on Friday night. Saturday dawned fine, although the clouds of spindrift flying off Girdlestone and Tahurangi indicated that the forecast was, unfortunately, correct. Nevertheless, we battled our way up the closed ski field, forever hopeful that the wind would die away. While some sheltered in the Giant Café from the snow-blasting, Magnus H, Jim, Ian and Gerald went to play on some ice. Upon their return, discussions were had and Andrew, Magnus F and Ant decided that they would throw caution to the wind (literally) and head on up the mountain. The remainder chose to play on a frozen waterfall, about 200m east of the café. >>



Magnus H, Climbing

Photo: Gerald Lanning

<< The waterfall was still solid, on the outside at least - just enough for an audacious lead by Jim. The wind relented and the ski field opened. Things were looking up. But then Magnus H's mobile rang. Andrew had broken his leg - falling somewhere between Tahurangi and Girdlestone. Magnus was onto the ski-patrol staff in a flash. A helicopter was arranged and we were told that we should go down the mountain. Later that evening, we were joined by Magnus F and Ant who explained Andrew's fall while descending a relatively innocuous slope, and the subsequent rescue. They did a fantastic job caring for Andrew and arranging the rescue. A big thank you to them and Magnus H for their work in getting Andrew off the mountain safely. An even bigger thank you is in order for the efficient and effective work of the Youthtown Helicopter and ski-field staff.

Sunday dawned fine again but without the spindrift. Feeling a little 'gun-shy' after Andrew's close-call, Ant, Jim, the two 'Magni' and Gerald decided to head up to Girdlestone by the standard route. After passing the site of Andrew's rescue and retrieving his ice-axe (still planted securely in the ice) we reached the summit - a stunning spot with incredible uninterrupted views in all directions. A quick but cautious decent saw us safely back at the carpark.

*Trip participants: Magnus Flock, Magnus Hammarsal, John Salisbury, Ian Wallace, Andrew Blair, Jim Davison, Anthony Stead, Gerald Lanning*



Andrew's Ice Axe

Photo: Jim Davison



Helicopter to the rescue

Photo: Magnus Flock



Andrew being put into the stretcher

Photo: Magnus Flock



Helicopter on the ridge

Photo: Magnus Flock

## Tools of the Adventure Crampon Bags

Here's an opportunity to get a great crampon bag at 15% off normal retail. If you're keen, email Chris Munro for more details. Payment must be in by October 16. Shipping is free!  
Email: [nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com](mailto:nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com)

**Special Offer ONLY - \$25**



### ***Antarctic Expedition - South Georgia***

On the 20th of January Andrew Kula, is planning to take part in the Shackleton Travers of South Georgia which is a one-off small guided expedition organized and attached to a commercial adventure trip organized by the Peregrine Adventures. The team are looking for one or more people with alpine experience to join the group.

The whole trip will start from Ushuaia in Argentina and take 21 days at sea and on land. A small ice-strengthened Russian ship will take a group of 80 plus people on a voyage through Falkland Islands and the Weddell Sea towards the Antarctic, then to South Georgia were a small expedition of 6 -10 people will take on the crossing. We are short of a few people at this stage and seeking experienced hikers or climbers to take part in the trip. One should budget around AU\$20K to do the whole trip including the airfare, the cruise and the crossing.

If you are interested please contact Peregrine Adventures directly on expedition@peregrineadventures.com or pete@composites.com.au

### ***Northern Recreation Opportunities Review***

Federated Mountain Clubs will be holding a **half day forum in Auckland on Saturday 31 October 2009** to obtain the opinions of people from a broad base including affiliated club members, Individual Supporters, interested members of the public, representatives of DoC and regional councils. The objectives of the forum are:

- To set general objectives for developing walking opportunities in the north
- To prioritise specific suggestions for Northland, Auckland, Gulf Islands, Coromandel and Kaimai areas
- To discuss issues associated with outdoor recreation, such as transport to recreation venues, public access issues, dual use of tracks, regional conservation issues, hut and track standards, and regional publicity
- To canvas opinions on new National Parks and Conservation Parks.
- Anyone interested in attending should email Federated Mountain Clubs at northforum@fmc.org.nz by 10 October 2009, in order to receive venue and directions as well as discussion papers.



*The Auckland Climber*  
NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter  
PO Box 3036,  
Auckland 1015  
New Zealand